

REMARKS

In response to the Notice of Non-compliant amendment, Applicants are submitting a corrected amendment to specification section in which the objected to items have been corrected.

With regard to the use of strikeout versus brackets in the amendments to the specification and claims, Applicants note that 37 CFR 1.121(b)(1)(ii) states "... The text of any deleted matter must be shown by strike-through except that double brackets placed before and after the deleted characters may be used to show deletion of five or fewer consecutive characters..." (emphasis added). 1.121(c)(2) is the same for claims. Hence, it is not 5 or less words which require the double brackets but 5 or less characters in which the double bracket may be used. Applicants have corrected the specification to show in double brackets the deletion of 5 or less consecutive characters. No such occurrence appears in the amendment of the claims so no correction has been made therein.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner's objections have been overcome, and it is requested that the Notice of Non-compliant amendment be withdrawn and the amendment entered.

If any fee is due for this response, please charge our deposit account 50/1039.

Favorable consideration is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated:

October 2, 2006



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